

California State Prison at San Quentin (SQSP)  
Proposed New Central Health Services Center

Project Information

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1. California State Prison at San Quentin is California's oldest and best known correctional institution, which was established on a site currently known as Point San Quentin, in July 1852. The prison rests overlooking the bay on 440 acres, and is located just 12 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge in the county of Marin.
2. The federal courts have determined that inmates at SQSP have inadequate access to constitutionally sufficient medical, mental health and dental care and that an adequate modern facility is needed to provide for a minimum standard of care for inmate patients.
3. SQSP provides medical, mental health, and dental services to inmates in substandard facilities such as the Neumiller Building and in several substandard locations, all located through out the prison property resulting in ineffective operations.
4. In 2001, a federal class action law suit was brought (Plata v. Schwarzenegger) on behalf of California's inmate population against the State of California over the quality of medical care in the State's 33 adult prisons. The U.S. District court found that the California prison medical system violates the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids cruel and unusual punishment of the incarcerated.
5. In 2002, the State settled the suit and agreed to implement a variety of remedies that would bring prison medical care in line with constitutional standards. However, the court found that the State failed to comply with these requirements and in June 2005 issued an order to establish a federal Receivership. Receiver Robert Sillen began work on April 17, 2006.
6. The California Prison Health Care Receivership Corp., a non-profit corporation from which the Receiver operates, is responsible for planning the restructuring and development of a constitutionally adequate prison medical care delivery system. The proposed CHSC is one element of the plan.
7. The primary goal of this proposed CHSC is to create a clinical environment where health care professionals can provide improved constitutionally adequate medical care to inmate patients at SQSP.
8. The existing Building #22 would be demolished and replaced with the new CHSC. Building #22 consists of five structures, the first of which was constructed in 1854. Building #22 provides approximately 54,000 gross square feet of space; however, this space is segmented into small rooms separated by grade elevations and is not functional for the coordinated services that need to be offered at SQSP. Further, in response to the 1990 Earthquake Safety and Public Rehabilitation Bond Act, an evaluation of the seismic risk of Building #22 determined that it was classified as a Seismic Risk Level VI. Seismic Risk Level VI indicates that extensive damage and probable partial or total collapse of the structures could occur during a seismic event. As a result, in the interest of public safety, Building #22 was vacated in the summer of 2006.
9. In light of the federal Receiver overseeing the implementation of improved medical services at SQSP, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) investigated the feasibility of retrofitting and re-designing Building #22 to serve as a new CHSC. However, CDCR determined that the substantial costs associated with retrofit, poor design for medical purposes, and the lack of total space needed for medical services made it infeasible to retrofit the building for use as a new CHSC. Because of the age of Building #22, CDCR is consulting with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) State Historic Preservation Officer to discuss the building's eligibility for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources.

10. The existing building (i.e., Neumiller) where most medical services are currently provided at SQSP has been classified as Seismic Risk Level V. The federal Receiver has determined that this building does not provide sufficient space for the necessary medical services required at SQSP. As such, the retrofit and redesign of this building would not be feasible.
11. A public agency scoping meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2007 at 1 pm at the Marin County Civic Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 330, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903. The scoping meeting will allow individuals and representatives of public agencies and groups to review the project with CDCR and the Receiver's staff, ask question and provide comments on the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
12. CDCR is also engaging in discussions with representatives from local agencies and citizen groups to discuss the issues that they would like addressed in the EIR.
13. The proposed CHSC would be in the location of Building #22, would be five-stories tall, located on approximately one acre, and would provide approximately 115,000 gross square feet of space that would be dedicated to medical, mental health, dental, receiving and release, and administrative services. Services offered at the facility would include the following:
  - a. Medical Health Care: outpatient primary care clinical services, specialty clinical services (optomology, dermatology, neurology, odeology, orthopedics, podiatry, physical therapy), medical beds, dialysis treatment, emergency/trauma treatment, radiology, clinical laboratory services, pharmacy, medical records, medical administration, and health services support.
  - b. Mental Health Services: Correctional Clinical Case Management System, Mental Health Crisis Beds, and administrative services.
  - c. Dental Health Care: dental reception center screening services, urgent/emergent and emergency dental services, and administrative services.
  - d. Receiving and Release: Arriving and departing inmates are searched, intake interviews are conducted, their abstract of judgment reviewed, valuables and money are secured, inmate identification cards are processed, and fingerprinting and health services screening conducted.
14. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in Fall 2007 and would last for approximately 30 months with occupancy of the building in Spring 2010.
15. The proposed CHSC project will not increase the inmate population at SQSP. A total of 75 new staff would be required and would commute to the site daily.
16. Estimated cost for the proposed CHSC project is \$142,900,000.

For more information about this project, contact Kimberly A. Bobic, Project Director, Vanir Construction Management at (805) 541-0911 or Cher Daniels, Chief, Environmental Planning Unit, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at (916) 323-0731.